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A large portion of these earnings goes to pay back the credit extended by traders the previous fall. The balance is used by the family to live in Lower Post during the summer at which time cash is paid for everything purchased. The record established by a man in trapping in turn determines the amount of credit which will be extended to his family the following fall to be used in purchasing food and supplies for winter consumption. Credit, however, is not the only factor determining the distribution of consumer goods in winter, since there is a limit to the amount and quality of food that can be transported to the settlement. The number of moose and other game animals which can be killed in the fall and winter also has an important bearing on the family's standard of living.

TABLE 8. MINIMAL BUSH STANDARD OF LIVING

Item	Price	Item	Price
50 lbs. flour	$ 6.00	5 lbs. oatmeal	$1.00
4 lbs. lard	1.00	½ lb. butter	.65
½ lb. tea	.75	1 lb. jam	.25
4 lbs. baking powder	1.00	1 lb. bacon	.60
12 lbs. sugar	2.10	2 cakes face soap	.25
12 lbs. beans	2.00	2 cakes laundry soap	.25
25 lbs. rice	4.50	1 lb. chewing tobacco	1.00
1 lb. cheese	.70	1 lb. cigarette tobacco	1.00
3 lbs. dried milk	2.00	2 pkgs. cigarette papers	.30
1 lb. salt	.50	10 pkgs. matches	.35
5 lbs. barley	1.00	12 candles	.50
100 lbs. dog feed	17.50	50 large cartridges	2.50
8 lbs. dried apples	2.50	50 .22 cartridges	.90
5 lbs. raisins	2.00	Needles, thread, etc.	1.00
3 lbs. macaroni	$ .50		44.60

Because money is generally plentiful in the spring after a family returns from trapping, the unequal standard of living is not generally apparent in Lower Post. Almost everyone has money to spend for new clothes, canned meat, fresh fruit, pies, doughnuts, cigarettes, candy, and whiskey or rum. An average family's expenses for these months in Lower Post amounts to about $700. Women, and particularly adolescent girls, spend a large part of their winter earnings for clothes; buying many blouses, slacks and jackets when they arrive in the post in the spring, or ordering these garments from mail order houses. Men and boys tend to confine clothes purchases to necessary items and generally secure these on credit in the fall. Their surplus money goes largely for alcoholic liquors.

In winter, the inequality shows up more sharply. A minimal standard of bush living is shown in Table 8. This indicates the amount of food and necessary supplies which a family consisting of two adults and one child, and owning four dogs, requires in one month. The prices are for Lower Post and must be almost doubled for gauging living standards at a remote outpost like Frances Lake.

If the monthly rate is multiplied by the nine months that the average family spends in

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431 which follow a request for assistance. The meat of large game animals is always readily distributed, even when a family is living with unrelated people. Other spontaneous gifts are made relatively rarely and then only in well defined cultural contexts. The most common of these presents include purchased trade goods; manufactures, such as moccasins; meat, berries, and brew. A few people exchange purchased trade goods at Christmas. Native manufactures may be given by a woman to her husband or brother. Spontaneous gifts, excepting meat, are frequently reciprocated within a few days or weeks and such reciprocity is usually expected, although not clearly formalized. Hospitality may be recognized as a special form of free gift giving, but is not carried to extremes and few people visit for any length of time without supplying their own grub. Persistent demands for hospitality are, first covertly and then soon overtly, resented, since, particularly in the winter settlement, the supply of grub is limited and often barely enough to see a family through to spring.

Most gifts follow a call for assistance. Such requests may be outright, but are more generally advanced by implication. It is far more satisfactory if a person has his offhand statement of being low on raisins or moosehide fulfilled by a gift of such goods than if he has to request the objects directly. Although requests are commonly fulfilled, this is not necessarily done in a spirit of generosity and the realization of covert resentment operates to reduce calls for help. In return for his response, however, the donor enhances his reputation for generosity. Nevertheless this reputation dare not be too widely advertised, for fear that it will boomerang in the form of additional requests. Actually more people were described to the ethnographer as being stingy than were praised for their generosity. The [609] reluctance of most people to make demands for goods or grub, particularly to non-relatives, also prevents a person's generosity from being abused. It is more or less understood that following assistance, the recipient will reciprocate the favor when he is called upon to do so. Actually many people chronically seek help without being able to contribute anything but cooperation in return, and this they are usually very unwilling to offer. The result is that the onus of giving rests upon a few older men who have been able to accumulate food and goods and who are generally extremely resentful of the role in which they are placed. Their antagonism reveals itself in ungenerous giving which in turn does not pass unnoticed and stimulates resentment in neighbors.

426 Loans differ from gifts in that they are made with the stronger expectation of the return of the object or its equivalent. Capital goods, as we have shown, are readily loaned. Grub, on the other hand, being more valuable, is more reluctantly shared in this fashion. Loans of money are occasionally made in summer with no interest being charged. It is not infrequent that loans fail to be repaid. Old Man reported lending skins to his son-in-law, Hans, who needed supplies but had no money. "I did it," Old Man said, "but he never let me have it [back]. If he stranger man, I bother him, but no use—he marry my daughter."

425 768 A final word may be added concerning the relatively rare incidence of the destruction of goods. This is limited to the worn clothes of the deceased, which are burned or abandoned after death, the rationalization being that they may carry disease and in this way threaten the surviving members of a family. A tent in which death has occurred is also sometimes abandoned for the same reason. Food of any kind is never destroyed.

428 *Inheritance.* Like most of the property transactions already referred to, the processes of